



IPA Students win the National Education Award for 2007

On Friday evening, the Department of Education headed by Roseleen Oduber conducted the National Education and Innovation Awards 2007 at the Cas di Cultura in Oranjestad. The evening consisted of an exposition by the competing schools in the secondary hall, and a program of presentations in music, dance, drama, or lectures in the auditorium.

Aruba has participated in the National Educational Awards competitions that are conducted by Holland since 1998, and the organizers have expanded the local event from simply the presentation of a lesson plan to a program that encourages more creativity.

Rose Marie Provence, Raquel Lampe, Jerney Harms and Tilly Vloor of the Instituto Pedagogico Arubano, (IPA,) Aruba's teacher training facility, were the organizers of this year's program. Raquel acted as Master of Ceremonies for the performance and presentation of the eight groups participating the competition.

The competing schools ranged in ages from kindergarten to teacher candidate school. Pancho Geerman, one of the judges, along with Roseleen Oduber and Mariska Dania, the Inspector of Education, declared that the age range of the participating schools gave the evening's program "great diversity." Mr. Geerman is a developmental psychologist specializing in education.

The participating schools, from the youngest to the oldest were Trupial Kleuterschool with an enactment of the story "E Raton Sabi den e neishi di trupial" (The smart rat in the nest of the Trupial- (Aruba's national bird.)

Next to perform was Anglo Kleuterschool that bid Arubans to "Ban Stima y duna balor na nos pais" (Love and Honor our Country.) Scol Preparatoria Washington presented "Plachi Y Palabra, (Pictures and Words) and the Faith Revival group performed a dance. After the intermission, students of the Colegio Cristo Rey & IPA presented "Tijd om Vrienden te Maken" (Time to Make Friends.) This was followed by "Feria Aruba" by the students of the Juliana School, a presentation from the EPI (Educacion Profesional Intermedio) Aruba's middle level vocational training institution, and the final skit was from the IPA students, titled "Compa Nansi" E haraña mas busca" (The spider most sought.)

After some difficult deliberation, the judges declared the winners to be the IPA student's presentation of "Compa Nansi" as winner of the National Education Award for 2007 and the presentation of "Feria Aruba" by the Juliana School students as winner of the Educational Innovation Award for 2007. Trupial Kleuterschool was named First Runner-up for the Educational Award. Minister of Education Marisol Lopez-Tromp presented beautiful hand made ceramic plaques to the winners, and all participating schools received certificates and driftwood plaques for their participation.

The winners of Aruba's National Education Awards will immediately travel to Holland to participate in the Dutch Kingdom Educational Awards, which attracts competitors from the twelve provinces of the Netherlands, and is open to entrants from Aruba and the Netherland Antilles. This program provides inspiration for teachers in creating innovative plans for stimulating their students; continually revamping and renewing the educational process. The winning presenters receive an award of 10,000 Euros. Pancho Geerman commented that Aruban educators additionally use this program "to involve the parents and the community-at-large, which is very important for successful education."

THE NEWS offers congratulations to Aruba's IPA students, and wishes them success during the Dutch competitions!